

GAGAKU

the gold fish
with those bulby eyes
need to be fed

I have two of them
and they're swimming very
quickly
very jerkingly up
on top their water
because
they are
hungry

I'll feed them soon
soon as I finish off
here

when someone asks me what I do
I do not tell them
I'm a feeder of goldfish
nor
do I say what I really am
what I only am
a writer of poems
and occasional prose

no
I keep these things
secret

no 'occupation' sounds worse
to the ear
than "I am a poet"

to say "I am a feeder of goldfish"
is not so bad
but still suspect

so I keep quiet
I tell them I'm unemployed
and when they ask how I make a living I tell them
I inherited some money
this always seems to strike them
in a favorable way

I don't say a word about
demons